



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

4:30 PM

City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – February 25, 2026
3. **Sustainability Coordinator Position Update** – Mari Brunner, Senior Planner
4. **Climate Resilience Presentation** – Kürt Blomquist, Emergency Management Administrator & Bryan Ruoff, City Engineer
5. **Clean Energy NH Municipal Membership Renewal**
6. **Expiration Keene Energy Plan Host Website** - Transfer of Documents to City Website
7. **Spring Retreat Draft Agenda Review** – Tuesday, April 21st from 9am-12pm in the City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
8. **Community Power Mailer** – Content Ideas
9. **Earth Month Events:**
 - a. **Budget for Outreach & Public Engagement Materials**
 - b. **Keene State College Earth Day Celebration** – Friday, April 17th from 12-3pm at Oya Hill
 - c. **2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival** – Saturday, April 25th from 11am-3pm at the Monadnock Food Co-op
10. **Work Group Report-outs**
 - a. Policy
 - b. Resilience
 - c. Outreach
11. **Staff Updates**
 - a. SB538 Letter of Support - Request from City Council
 - b. C-PACER
12. **New Business**
13. **Next Meeting:** April 22, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:30 PM 2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

Gordon Leverage, Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Paul Roth
Steve Larmon (arrived at 4:57 PM)
Timothy Murphy
Jake Pipp, Alternate (Voting)
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)
Catherine Koning, Alternate (arrived at 4:50 PM)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Annu Joshi Bargale
Clair Oursler
Lisa Maxfield
Charles Redfern, Alternate
Matthew Boulton, Alternate

1) **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Leverage called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

2) **Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2026**

Revisions: Line 221, revise to read as “what if that mortgage assessment *schedule* is...” Lines 239–240: revise to say, “... and *residential* properties with five or more units...” Lines 322–323, update to clarify that Mr. Peter Hansel was referring to a “\$35,000 salary *annually*” for three years. Ms. Brunner reported that with salary and benefits, the updated figure was approximately \$121,000 for the first year, and this was a reference to 1/3 per year.

A motion by Councilor Lake to adopt the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes, as amended, was duly seconded by Mr. Pipp and the motion carried unanimously.

3) **NH Saves Weatherization Rebate Program – Presentation on Recent Program Updates**

28 Chair Leversee welcomed Kyle Missaggia from NHSaves. Mr. Missaggia provided the Committee
29 with some flyers regarding a new program Eversource was rolling out. This initiative is available
30 to individuals and is designed to assist working households who qualify at or near the area median
31 income. The program offers up to \$15,000 in weatherization services, including air sealing,
32 insulation, window upgrades, heat pumps, and other energy-saving measures. Mr. Missaggia
33 called it a straightforward way for residents to participate in energy-saving efforts. He thought the
34 ECC might have contacts who could benefit from this opportunity. The program is applicable to
35 both single-family homes and multi-unit properties; NHSaves already completed projects
36 involving buildings with up to 12 units in Peterborough. Although NHSaves operates out of
37 Nashua, Mr. Missaggia resides in Wilton, NH. So, he said the goal to expand into this part of the
38 state would be very feasible, and he looked forward to focusing on more outreach in this region.

39
40 Mr. Pipp shared his experience with similar past programs and the process usually involved
41 submitting details, such as fuel usage and square footage, to determine eligibility. He asked
42 whether a comparable approach would be required for this program or if everyone would
43 automatically qualify. Mr. Missaggia the procedures are quite similar to what Mr. Pipp mentioned
44 (information was provided to the Committee, along with the utility contact). The initial, mandatory
45 step is income verification to ensure that the household meets the qualification requirements before
46 moving on to the next step, reporting fuel usage. Mr. Missaggia said this program offers slightly
47 more leeway than others. Many older homes in the area consume significant amounts of energy,
48 as indicated by telltale signs like icicle formation.

49
50 Ms. Brunner asked if income verification is by submitting W2s. Mr. Missaggia said there are two
51 income verification methods: linking bank accounts or submitting W-2 forms. The specific process
52 may vary depending on an applicant's sources of income. Income verification is conducted by a
53 third-party service. Neither the contractor nor the utility has knowledge of personal financial
54 details; they only receive confirmation of eligibility.

55
56 Councilor Lake appreciated Mr. Missaggia bringing this to the Committee. Regarding the
57 communication plan, Councilor Lake asked if any pamphlets would be distributed to Eversource
58 customers. Mr. Missaggia said that was certainly something NHSaves intended to pursue, noting
59 it was a new product, and Eversource was in the early stages of implementation. While
60 participation had been limited so far, he cited the recent momentum. With the plan to expand
61 further, Mr. Missaggia said the ECC's support in outreach efforts or guidance would be
62 appreciated.

63
64 Carlyn Sweet of Keene asked if the program is designed for landlords or tenants. Mr. Missaggia
65 said either. In tenant situations, approval to use their electricity and fuel consumption data is
66 required, followed by landlord consent to perform work. Ms. Sweet understood that it would cover
67 100% of certain weatherization measures and asked Mr. Missaggia to elaborate on whether
68 appliance upgrades and enhancements would also be fully covered. Mr. Missaggia said the utility's
69 objective is to deliver these improvements at no cost to homeowners or architects. For example, in
70 a two-family building, each unit may qualify for up to \$15,000, totaling \$30,000 for the property.
71 Larger complexes may realize considerable savings. Ms. Sweet called it an excellent program, and
72 others agreed.

73

74 Mr. Pipp noted the connection between NHSaves and Eversource. He asked Mr. Missaggia to
75 clarify his role and how contractors are involved. Mr. Missaggia explained that NHSaves conducts
76 audits and installations, specializing in air sealing, insulation, and weatherization. He is one of four
77 auditors with Turn Cycle Solutions, which has seven crews dedicated to these tasks daily. After
78 completing an audit, NHSaves submits its findings—which incorporate projected fuel and
79 electricity savings—to the utility for approval and to schedule installation. Mr. Missaggia said that
80 if the ECC tracks metrics, NHSaves would be happy to collaborate and share energy savings results
81 for use on websites or other platforms.

82
83 Chair Leversee noted two upcoming Earth Day events in April. The ECC would have a table for
84 at least one of them and asked whether information about this program would be available. Mr.
85 Missaggia said he could ensure that that information is provided. Chair Leversee said having a
86 stack of the materials would be helpful for tabling. Mr. Missaggia would arrange that and said he
87 could see about setting up an additional table, if possible and timing permitted. He noted that
88 NHSaves previously tabled at Peterborough’s Sun Week celebration, presenting related programs
89 and discussing energy-saving opportunities. Chair Leversee thought that having a dedicated table
90 for this program could increase visibility. Mr. Missaggia confirmed that this topic would be on the
91 ECC’s next agenda. Dr. Russell suggested contacting the Monadnock Food Co-Op, which
92 organizes the Monadnock Region Earth Festival to secure a table; he was unsure about the
93 deadline. Mr. Missaggia said he would pursue that.

94
95 Ms. Brunner said she would already be tabling at one festival and wanted to be able to answer
96 questions accurately. She asked, if someone had already participated in the basic NHSaves
97 Program, are they eligible for this initiative? Mr. Missaggia said they may be eligible, provided
98 their fuel usage meets the criteria. For instance, if they participated the prior year and their fuel
99 consumption remains high, re-enrollment is possible. He was not referring to the red-to-orange
100 part of the gas meters; this program does not use that specifically. Eversource handles eligibility
101 verification, allowing some leeway. During audits, Mr. Missaggia typically informs customers of
102 their eligibility status, and participants in other programs can join this one as well. He added that
103 only a few contractors could facilitate this specific work at this time, which involves additional
104 computer modeling.

105
106 Peter Hansel of Keene referred to the appliance upgrades mentioned, including heating and cooling
107 systems, and asked if that includes heat pumps. Mr. Missaggia said heat pumps are applicable if
108 the home already has electric resistance heating. However, fuel system conversions—such as
109 transitioning from oil to heat pumps—are not permitted at this time. Mr. Missaggia anticipated
110 future changes once metrics and tracking methods are established.

111
112 The Committee thanked Mr. Missaggia for his time.

113
114 **4) C-PACER Updates**

115
116 Councilor Lake and Vice Chair Nebenzahl attended the City Council’s Planning, Licenses and
117 Development (PLD) Standing Committee hearing on the Commercial Property Assessed Clean
118 Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program on February 11, 2026. Chair Leversee requested an
119 update.

120
121 Councilor Lake reported that the ECC’s initial recommendation passed through the PLD
122 Committee and then through the Council as well. This was asking the City Manager to direct staff
123 to write an Ordinance, which will go to the Council; Joint Planning Board & PLD Committee, and
124 to the regular PLD Committee for review before eventually going back Council for a final vote.
125 Councilor Lake said the February 11, 2026 PLD meeting about C-PACER was pretty quick. He
126 said Vice Chair Nebenzahl and Planner, Megan Fortson, did a great job getting unanimous support
127 from the five-member PLD Committee. The 15-member City Council then unanimously approved
128 the PLD Committee’s recommendation. Now, Councilor Lake said it was a matter of determining
129 the details of the actual Ordinance. He called it all pretty positive. Chair Lerversee agreed that it
130 was great news.

131
132 **5) Spring Retreat Planning – Potential Dates/Times**
133

134 Chair Lerversee initiated conversation about planning the Committee’s annual Spring Retreat,
135 which was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM last year. He recalled
136 barely scraping together a quorum for that meeting, which involved a presentation on the Hazard
137 Mitigation Plan & FEMA mapping updates from the Emergency Management Director, Kurt
138 Blomquist, as well as Plans Examiner & Floodplain Manager, Michael Hagan. There was also an
139 update on the City’s Comprehensive Master Plan. Then, Chair Lerversee said the Committee
140 discussed its work for the next year and developed a plan to move from five working groups to
141 three working groups—the status at this time—to work more collaboratively toward supporting a
142 few major goals. Chair Lerversee said he mentioned this so the group could think about scheduling
143 the retreat for this year, and also to gauge if there were ideas for a different type of agenda.

144
145 Councilor Lake noted that one of the Committee’s bigger changes in the past couple of years was
146 significant reorganization of the ECC’s Work Group structure. He thought that it would be good
147 to have a Retreat session to reconnect how the three new Work Groups have been doing for the
148 past few months and whether the Committee set the right directions for them or needs to pivot at
149 all. Councilor Lake added that it would be great to have a guest speaker on a topic, if anyone had
150 something specific in mind. He said he is pretty flexible with dates, with some time unavailable at
151 the end of April / early May. Councilor Lake noted the challenges of getting everybody together
152 for an extended meeting of a few hours. He wondered about having shorter ones (i.e., one hour) in
153 the spring and fall on different topics, and one longer one to flesh out some bigger topics.

154
155 Dr. Konig arrived at 4:50 PM.

156
157 Mr. Murphy liked Councilor Lake’s idea of evaluating how the Work Groups are doing, stating
158 that it makes a lot of sense. Something else that resonated with Mr. Murphy was the Committee’s
159 excitement and motivation about Keene potentially being the first municipality in New Hampshire
160 with a C-PACER Program. So, he wondered where to go from here and what the ECC’s role would
161 be. He felt that in conjunction with the Committee’s Outreach Work Group, there were many ways
162 to breathe life into the Program. He heard conversation of the City being lucky to receive a couple
163 of C-PACER users per during the previous meeting. Mr. Murphy wondered if the ECC could do
164 something about that, perhaps in conjunction with others.

165

166 Vice Chair Nebenzahl was thinking about the same thing as Mr. Murphy. Vice Chair Nebenzahl
167 mentioned perhaps the need to do more outreach to the Chamber of Commerce—going to one of
168 their meetings or inviting them to an ECC meeting—to discuss what things the community could
169 do together for C-PACER. Vice Chair Nebenzahl was unsure whether there is enough community
170 outreach by the Committee; she heard from Committee members that the ECC does not really
171 communicate energy updates. She thought the ECC needed to find a way to communicate more
172 with the community, which she suggested as a Retreat topic.
173

174 Dr. Russell noted that the Committee had just hosted another program presentation at the beginning
175 of this meeting from NHSaves, which proved to be an excellent addition to the ECC’s ongoing
176 efforts. Facilitating and promoting various initiatives within the City is a core function of the ECC.
177 In essence, he said it serves as a clearinghouse for these programs and represents these interests,
178 yet the community does not always perceive the ECC in that capacity. Dr. Russell expressed
179 appreciation for Mr. Murphy’s remarks, which addressed the broader scope of initiatives under the
180 Committee’s oversight. Dr. Russell said the challenge remained: how could the public access
181 information about these programs without going to multiple different organizations or reading the
182 City Council minutes? He thought it might be best to consolidate and disseminate information
183 about all these programs and organize one table at the Earth Festival, featuring a comprehensive
184 flyer that lists all available programs. Dr. Russell added that perhaps the ECC’s website could also
185 be reframed to provide accessible links to these resources. Vice Chair Nebenzahl proposed that the
186 Committee consider developing a newsletter. Mr. Murphy thought it sounded like a multi-day
187 retreat.
188

189 Upon reviewing historical documents related to the ECC’s founding, Chair Lerversee was reminded
190 that the three overarching objectives had been: (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, (2) advance
191 renewable energy / reduce energy consumption, and (3) address the impacts of climate change.
192 These broad goals had guided the Committee’s efforts, such as establishing the Community Power
193 Program and pursuing appointment of a Sustainability Coordinator, which remains a subject of
194 ongoing discussions and work. Chair Lerversee wanted to be thoughtful moving forward about the
195 Committee’s clear overarching understanding of what it does and how. He said a lot might be
196 communication rather than individual programs that seem vaguely connected. He wondered if
197 there was an overarching flow to the ECC’s work direction and where it wanted to go next. Chair
198 Lerversee said that would be his desired outcome of the retreat.
199

200 Councilor Lake fully supported these suggestions, especially the ideas for communicating better.
201 He also thought it would be valuable to explore how these initiatives align with the City’s recent
202 Master Plan update. This connection was discussed frequently among Councilors when planning
203 for the upcoming year, so he thought it could be a useful Retreat topic as well. Ms. Brunner
204 appreciated that idea.
205

206 Given the significance of these topics, Chair Lerversee proposed that the Committee review its
207 notes and include the Retreat on its March 2026 agenda. Chair Lerversee asked each Work Group
208 to discuss the topic as they met during the coming month as well.
209

210 Dr. Larmon arrived at 4:57 PM.
211

212 Mr. Pipp noted that the Master Plan is a broader view. Perhaps to help the ECC with a more
213 granular perspective, the Committee could also review the Sustainable Energy Plan it adopted; it
214 had different prongs and under each of those there were specific goals. Mr. Pipp recalled the
215 Committee focusing more on that a few years prior.

216
217 Mr. Hansel noted that the City was nearly halfway to its 2030 goal of transitioning to 100%
218 renewable energy sources. He thought this presented an opportune moment for the Committee to
219 assess its progress, gather actual data, and communicate these findings to the public; there were
220 likely questions about its achievements and ongoing efforts. Mr. Hansel agreed with Mr. Pipp that
221 the ECC has a roadmap in the Sustainable Energy Plan and perhaps it needs updating to determine
222 whether there is a more effective way to reach the goal.

223
224 Dr. Russell appreciated Chair Laversee articulating the ECC's three overarching goals, which were
225 reflected in past and current plans, including the City's updated Master Plan. He said using these
226 as organizing principles/categories could allow the Committee to systematically review its
227 accomplishments, the City's progress, and the various programs discussed. Dr. Russell thought
228 that it would create a substantial amount of work for the retreat and believed it would be more
229 valuable than inviting a guest speaker.

230
231 Dr. Koning stated that unless the Retreat guest would be Ms. Brunner or colleagues providing a
232 progress report, as suggested by the Outreach Work Group, the Committee could consider holding
233 a separate public meeting. The intent would be to feature preliminary calculations and assessments
234 of Community Power savings so far compared to the City's greenhouse gas production. Dr.
235 Koning's own calculations indicated a modest reduction, although she hoped there might be an
236 error. She thought that presentation could also help to make a case for the public about hiring a
237 Sustainability Coordinator by highlighting why more expertise is needed.

238
239 Councilor Lake discussed potential dates and times and asked whether the group should send out
240 a poll to gather input for scheduling. He noted that it can be challenging to collect responses and
241 emphasized the importance of replying to such polls, as planning would be difficult without
242 feedback. City staff would distribute the poll and collect ideas for retreat days in the spring.

243
244 Ms. Brunner asked whether the poll should offer a two-hour or three-hour meeting time frame.
245 The group discussed different options—three, four, or five hours. Mr. Pipp recalled that, in the
246 past, three-hour retreats often ran out of time, suggesting that the duration was insufficient (e.g.,
247 with lengthy presentations). Chair Laversee thought that if the group prepared in advance, did not
248 have guest presentations (e.g., 30 to 45 minutes), and it is focused, that three hours should be
249 adequate. The Committee ultimately agreed that a three-hour Retreat would be suitable.

250

251 **6) Keene State College Earth Day Celebration – Friday, April 17, 2026 from 12:00 PM–**
252 **3:00 PM at Ova Hill**

253
254 Chair Laversee inquired about the Earth Day event on April 17, 2026 at Keene State College,
255 confirming that a table would be present and someone planned to attend. Ms. Brunner said it
256 sounded like the Committee could have its own table if wanted and she could investigate the
257 possibility of securing one, noting that Committee members would need to staff it. Although, Ms.

258 Brunner planned to attend and would appreciate company. She knew recruiting volunteers to staff
259 the ECC table had typically been challenging, so she offered to distribute ECC materials at the
260 event. The Chair suggested that a Committee member join Ms. Brunner at her table as opposed to
261 the Committee having their own table and Vice Chair Nebenzahl agreed it would be wiser. Chair
262 Leverage indicated willingness to join, and suggested others might also be able.
263

264 Dr. Russell asked whether this was Keene State College's (KSC) usual event or a new activity.
265 Ms. Brunner knew that in the past Solar Fest was held the same day as the Monadnock Earth
266 Festival and this year, Solar Fest would be one week in advance. So, Ms. Brunner thought the KSC
267 Earth Day Celebration would be a new event. Dr. Russell noted that the events had not always
268 coincided in the past and requested clarification, as Solar Fest draws a broader audience. Ms.
269 Brunner agreed to inquire. Dr. Koning observed that there might be a new organizer, suggesting
270 this KSC event might reflect a new vision. Vice Chair Nebenzahl recalled noticing a stronger
271 presence at KSC, with student sustainability tables and fruit displays, for example. It indicated a
272 real effort. She recommended inviting a member of the KSC student sustainability group to a
273 meeting to foster community involvement/outreach.
274

275 Mr. Pipp recalled Dr. Russell's earlier suggestion to provide sheets that list all available programs,
276 explaining each one for public awareness. This would help make the resources more available to
277 attendees (homeowners, community members, or businesses) and better communicate ongoing
278 initiatives.
279

280 Dr. Koning noted that the Outreach Work Group discussed Earth Day and proposed bringing a big
281 whiteboard with the main message displayed, "Are you ready to opt up?" including a QR code and
282 flyer (i.e., engaging). Then, she said people could take flyers from the table to learn more. The
283 group aims to attract attendees beyond printed materials with the message. Mr. Roth suggested a
284 bubble machine.
285

286 Mr. Hansel raised a question about past organizers, noting that Chloe March at KSC previously
287 ran the Eco-Reps Committee but had graduated. Mr. Hansel suggested contacting her replacement
288 and collaborating with their team for tabling. Ms. Brunner confirmed that contact information for
289 the current Eco-Reps President, Amanda Rotigliano, was available in the [Committee's February
290 25, 2026 meeting packet](#) (page 15 of 22).
291

292 Chair Leverage said he would table with Ms. Brunner at the April 17, 2026 KSC Earth Day event
293 and he welcomed other Committee members to join him or take his place.
294

295 Councilor Lake noted that typically for Earth Day events, the ECC brought homeowner-focused
296 materials. He wondered if this Keene State event should be more educational to engage the students
297 or designed to draw in the broader community. Ms. Brunner clarified that Ms. Rotigliano
298 welcomed both informational and interactive activities, but said interactive elements would likely
299 foster greater engagement. Since the event is held on campus, students would be the primary
300 audience, though faculty and staff might also attend. From that perspective, Councilor Lake said
301 the Community Power Plan is a great educational piece but the City is not trying to get the students
302 to opt up. That is something the City has accomplished and is doing within the community. Dr.

303 Koning agreed it was a good point to reconsider the content for the whiteboard, such as a quiz
304 question about the number of solar arrays in Keene.

305
306 7) **2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival – Saturday, April 25th from 11:00 AM–3:00**
307 **PM at the Monadnock Food Co-Op**
308

309 Chair Leversee stated that the Committee had hosted a table in the past and would like to do so
310 again, but would need to staff it and expressed his willingness to assist. In the past, he picked up
311 materials and helped with setup and takedown; Councilor Lake also participated in these tasks
312 before. The Chair wanted to ensure that enough people would be available to staff the table and
313 suggested that Ms. Fortson send a note to everyone, asking Committee Members to indicate their
314 preferred time slot and tabling location. Dr. Koning said she would be present and could rotate one
315 hour at a time between the three tables she would be representing that day. Discussion ensued
316 about who would sign up for the ECC table with the Monadnock Food Co-op. Chair Leversee said
317 he knew that there was consensus to have an ECC table, but wanted to ensure that there was a
318 commitment to staff it. Dr. Koning suggested requesting table placement next to the Clean Energy
319 Team’s table to minimize walking distances.

320
321 Councilor Lake volunteered to send out a Google Sheet, as he had done for previous events, so
322 everyone could add their names and indicate their availability. Although he would be on vacation
323 that weekend and might not be able to attend, he would send the Sheet promptly to help coordinate
324 staffing and follow-up to ensure a timely request for the table.

325
326 Mr. Murphy noted that the Earth Festival could attract more community interaction than the KSC
327 event and therefore might require a different selection of table items. Dr. Russell suggested that
328 for the Keene State event, the climate Resilience Work Group could consider interactive activities,
329 possibly involving environmental studies students, to engage participants in identifying issues of
330 concern. Dr. Koning proposed an interactive map where attendees could place stickers to show
331 preferred locations for bike paths, their frequent destinations, or areas of concern (e.g., flooding).
332 She also suggested using a whiteboard to gather responses to questions.

333
334 Chair Leversee recommended that the Work Groups think about the Earth Festival table and the
335 Committee would revisit the topic at the next meeting to ensure everyone is aware.

336
337 8) **Senate Bill 538 (SB538) – Related to Net Metering Credits for Solar Projects Serving**
338 **Political Subdivisions**
339

340 Chair Leversee stated that Clean Energy NH was looking for a letter of support because the current
341 rules would end net metering credits in 2040. He said Clean Energy NH wanted to add a one-line
342 amendment to the existing language to guarantee 20 years of net metering for municipal solar
343 projects from when they begin receiving compensation. Clean Energy NH hoped to secure a letter
344 of support from the Committee.

345
346 Discussion ensued about the best method for the Committee to show its support because it is a
347 piece of legislation. Ms. Brunner said City staff felt that it should go through City Council since
348 the Committee serves as an advisory body to the Council. She thought it would be beneficial to

349 bring it to the Council’s attention for a formal endorsement, which would carry more weight.
350 Councilor Lake agreed with Ms. Brunner and added context from the Committee’s perspective.
351 Councilor Lake recalled that the Committee had previously written letters of support, but typically
352 those were directed to the City in support of specific programs, or sent to the Departments of
353 Transportation, for example. Sending a letter directly to the state legislature would be different for
354 the ECC, and he did not recall such an instance. So, Councilor Lake suggested that this issue would
355 be best handled by the Council, especially since action was time sensitive. He suggested that the
356 ECC motion to recommend the City Council submit a letter in support of Senate Bill 538 (the ECC
357 would not write a letter to the Council).

358
359 Mr. Murphy observed many moving parts. He referred to the packet, which included a letter from
360 Frank Richter with Clean Energy NH, indicating that letters could be accepted from municipal
361 boards like the City Council and from committees like the ECC. Mr. Murphy recalled Ms.
362 Brunner’s earlier comment that it would be more appropriate for the letter to come from City
363 Council, while Bryan mentioned that he could not recall the Council itself writing such a letter to
364 the legislature. Councilor Lake clarified that ECC had not; it is common for the Council to do so.
365 Ms. Brunner confirmed that the Council has a policy to write letters to the legislature if they align
366 with an NH Municipal Association (NHMA) position, and NHMA supported this bill, so it met
367 the Council’s policy.

368
369 Mr. Murphy further noted that the sample letter provided was a sign-on letter, not an individual
370 letter from a municipality. He wondered whether the City Council might resist signing onto
371 someone else’s language and questioned whether the Council preferred writing its own letters; his
372 experience suggested legislators tended to take form letters less seriously. Mr. Murphy said that if
373 the Council simply adopted the sample letter verbatim, it might erode its effectiveness. He
374 suggested a customized letter might be more effective, but acknowledged the process was complex
375 and not straightforward.

376
377 Chair Leverage’s sense was that it would be up to the City Council to wrestle with whether they
378 want to sign on or write their own letter. Mr. Murphy wondered, if the Committee recommended
379 that the City Council consider favorably signing onto SB 538 for the reasons outlined in the letter
380 by Clean Energy NH, then it would be a full recommendation vs. a half suggestion for the Council
381 to write its own letter. In the interest of efficiency, Dr. Koning thought it would be smarter and
382 probably just as effective for the Committee to recommend that the Council sign on to the form
383 letter.

384
385 Mr. Murphy made the following motion, which was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. On a vote
386 of 8–0, the Energy and Climate Committee recommends that the City Council sign on to the letter
387 in support of SB 538 provided by Clean Energy NH.

388
389 **9) Work Group Report-Outs**
390 **A) Policy**
391

392 Councilor Lake reported that he and Vice Chair Nebenzahl met to talk about C-PACER. Councilor
393 Lake was unable to access the Statewide Energy Committee meeting this month due to technology
394 and would provide an update after the next month’s meeting.

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B) Resilience

Dr. Russell reported that the Resilience Work Group met a few weeks prior, compiled a robust list of climate change related issues, and discussed what resilience looks like within that matrix. The Group suggested, at an upcoming ECC meeting in March or April 2026, inviting pertinent Public Works Department staff and possibly Emergency Management Director Blomquist, to share their thoughts on Keene climate resilience priorities. The Work Group aims to have a discussion that would flow from their input, covering areas where they need help, where they would like input from the Committee, and how we the ECC could help reinforce what they are already attempting to do.

Dr. Russell asked for the Committee’s feedback/objections to the idea. Dr. Koning thought that it sounded like a great idea. Mr. Murphy asked whether it would be an invitation to speak to the Resilience Work Group or the ECC. Dr. Russell said the intent would be to speak to the ECC and if the Committee was not interested, then it could be a Work Group exercise. Mr. Murphy understood and thought there sounded like a benefit for the full Committee, although he noted that it would require sufficient time on a Committee agenda. Dr. Russell would coordinate with Ms. Fortson to schedule.

Mr. Roth added that the Work Group feels it is its job to support and validate City staff’s sustainability initiatives. He said much discussion centered on the need to solve the disconnect that exists and to promote those initiatives. Dr. Russell said the Work Group also wanted to establish that they are interested in having staff be a part of their meetings and interact with them, so the ECC would not be siloed from the City’s work. Chair Lerversee noted that this approach was very consistent with the ECC’s 2025 Retreat and the recommendations for moving forward this year—the idea of collaborating across other offices and work groups.

C) Outreach

Dr. Koning stated that most topics had been discussed already. She suggested that the Outreach Work Group’s next meeting should focus on consolidating ideas for the two upcoming Earth Day events. Dr. Koning also expressed uncertainty regarding the direction for a public meeting or progress report; she sought input from the Committee and Ms. Brunner about whether a separate public meeting should be planned. Ms. Brunner asked whether the event would be Committee- or staff-organized. Dr. Koning thought that the Committee could handle logistics such as reserving space and advertising, while the presentation could be delivered by staff. Ms. Brunner was open to the idea and acknowledged that timing and other details would require coordination but believed it could be feasible.

Dr. Koning asked the Committee whether it wanted to pursue this public meeting. Chair Lerversee reflected on timing, referencing the Retreat agenda, which would be for assessing progress and developing materials. He suggested that after the retreat, the Committee would have the information to determine whether it is ready to move forward with a public meeting, at which point Ms. Brunner could advise on her availability to participate. Ms. Brunner emphasized the principle of collaboration over duplication, and referenced the Monadnock Sustainability Hub’s Clean

441 Energy Fair, for example. She suggested that the progress update could be presented as a session
442 within the Clean Energy Fair, rather than as a standalone event. Dr. Koning is on the Monadnock
443 Sustainability Hub’s Board and confirmed that the ECC would be cosponsoring the 2026 event as
444 well. Dr. Koning liked the idea of incorporating the presentation with the Clean Energy Fair. Mr.
445 Roth thought there would be a larger audience.

446
447 Ms. Brunner presented some Outreach requests to the Board. She updated the Committee on a
448 recent meeting she had with a consultant from Good Energy for the Community Power Program.
449 Ms. Brunner recalled that the City manages the Community Power Program with support from
450 Good Energy (consultant), Direct Energy (supplier), and Standard Power. She acknowledged the
451 complexity of these partnerships. She shared that the contract with Good Energy entitles the City
452 to one mailer or printed outreach piece per year, such as flyers. She saw this as an opportunity to
453 inform Keene residents about the Community Power Program and the environmental benefits of
454 opting up. She suggested the mailer could also highlight other resources, such as NHSaves and the
455 energy coaching program through the Monadnock Sustainability Hub. Ms. Brunner invited the
456 Committee to contribute ideas for the mailer’s content, while offering staff support for the internal
457 resources needed.

458
459 Dr. Russell asked about the timeline, and Ms. Brunner confirmed that the mailer can be sent any
460 time during the year. Dr. Russell proposed that a newsletter could incorporate updates on all
461 relevant ECC programs. There was a mention of C-PACER. Ms. Brunner recommended that
462 content be tailored specifically for Keene residents and specifically Community Power customers.
463 Councilor Lake thought the timing for the mailer distribution could be really important each year
464 to maintain impactful public awareness in-between concentrated program launches or renewal
465 periods. He encouraged the Outreach Work Group to explore the topic.

466
467 Dr. Koning liked the idea and was willing to assist. She noted that some residents were opting out
468 of the program due to rate concerns, referencing a recent “Letter to The Editor” in The Keene
469 Sentinel that criticized Community Power costs. Dr. Koning suggested educational efforts could
470 counter such perceptions, possibly by explaining price fluctuations—more of policy matter.

471
472 In response to Mr. Murphy, Ms. Brunner confirmed that Good Energy, as the consultant, would
473 collaborate with Direct Energy to distribute the mailer to customers. Mr. Murphy responded by
474 asking about the Committee’s latitude to promoting various initiatives within the mailer; Ms.
475 Brunner had mentioned that it would need to focus on the Community Power Program. Ms.
476 Brunner replied that it should be directed toward people who are on the Community Power
477 Program. Mr. Murphy asked if the Committee would exceed its parameters if it talked about other
478 programs, like C-PACER. He noted there did not need to be an answer at this meeting and he could
479 envision these questions about the scope being addressed at/after the Spring Retreat. Ms. Brunner
480 confirmed that most accounts in the Program are residential, so the mailer should target residential
481 customers. She specified that the mailer should be limited to one page, with the option to use both
482 sides.

483
484 Mr. Roth asked when the year term for the mailer begins. Ms. Brunner assumed it was the calendar
485 year but had not asked. Mr. Roth asked the contract terms. Ms. Brunner said the contract period
486 with Direct Energy is two years and she believed one-year with Good Energy. Mr. Roth asked if

487 the City paid for mailers and never used them. Ms. Brunner thought the City had pre-used some to
488 have banners and other materials printed for the Program launch, and now the arrangement was
489 current.

490
491 Ms. Brunner provided an additional Outreach update regarding upcoming renewal for the
492 KeeneEnergyPlan.com website. The ECC was instrumental in developing the site in collaboration
493 with the City's sustainability fellow about six years prior. She noted that City policy now requires
494 content to be hosted on the main City website, with stricter accessibility standards, so
495 KeeneEnergyPlan.com would not be renewed. Ms. Brunner asked the Committee to identify any
496 content they wanted preserved and transferred to the [City's Sustainability web page](#). Mr. Roth
497 questioned whether there would be a new or complementary City portal to replace the old website.

498
499 Ms. Brunner confirmed that any relevant information could be added to the [City of Keene website](#),
500 [KeeneNH.gov](#), including Sustainability and Energy Plan contents. Mr. Roth suggested this as a
501 Retreat topic, given its relevance to outreach and education. The Committee agreed that a whole
502 new webpage might not be needed. Ms. Brunner thought it would be a task for Committee
503 Members to scan KeeneEnergyPlan.com, determine what was still relevant, and then City staff
504 would move those items to the City of Keene Sustainability webpage or create a new page. Dr.
505 Koning thought a lot on KeeneEnergyPlan.com was really outdated.

506

507 **10) New Business**

508

509 Chair Leversee shared an informational item. The New Hampshire Department of Energy hired
510 the consulting firm London Economics International to study the impacts and feasibility of
511 withdrawing from the ISO New England Energy Grid. He said many could not imagine NH
512 withdrawing, but the news had rattled the energy world. Chair Leversee said it would be
513 noteworthy if there were a recommendation for the state to move forward independently, which
514 would be something similar to Texas.

515

516 **11) Next Meeting Date: March 25, 2026 at 4:30 PM**

517 **12) Adjournment**

518

519 There being no further business, Chair Leversee adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

520

521 Respectfully submitted by,
522 Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

523

524 Reviewed and edited by,
525 Megan A. Fortson – AICP, Planner



Clean Energy NH is dedicated to empowering New Hampshire cities and towns so they may enrich their communities with the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Memberships are valid until one year after receipt of dues. Renewal reminders are sent via e-mail.

CPCNH Members receive a discount on Municipal Memberships.

MUNICIPAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS (\$300):

These benefits are available to all municipal members:

- Access to the member-exclusive web portal dedicated to important updates and information relevant to members (all municipal staff, elected officials, and/or energy committee members are eligible for this benefit)
- Neutral expertise, technical assistance, training for energy project execution:
 - **Local Policy** (e.g. incorporating energy considerations into zoning, ordinances, and master plans)
 - **Energy Efficiency** (e.g. energy benchmarking with Portfolio Manager, energy efficient new construction and building retrofits, lighting and equipment upgrades, NHSaves programs)
 - **Renewable Energy** (e.g. solar, hydro-electric, biomass)
 - **Funding Sources** (e.g. identifying and navigating incentives, grants, tax credits, and financing)
 - **Procurement Models** (e.g. direct ownership, leasing, Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), group net metering, community power aggregation)
 - **Public Outreach** (e.g. training in Solarize/Weatherize public outreach campaigns, coaching on successful public outreach ahead of town voting on energy projects);
 - **Electric Vehicles** (EV fleet and charging infrastructure deployment);
 - Other personalized technical assistance for energy projects.
- Two-way policy communication:
 - Nonpartisan expertise on local, legislative, and regulatory energy policies, including regular updates and opportunities for conversation during the legislative session
 - Empowering municipalities and energy committees with a voice in state energy policy issues.
- Two (2) Complimentary tickets to the annual Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference
- Certificate to display in town or city offices that proclaims the community is a supporter of Clean Energy NH

GOLD MUNICIPAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS (\$500):

Includes ALL OF THE ABOVE Municipal benefits listed, and instead of two (2) tickets...

- Four (4) Complimentary tickets to the annual Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference

Visit the Membership page on our website or send a check made payable to "Clean Energy NH" to the mailing address below. Contact Membership Coordinator, Anna Li Preble, with any questions: annali@cleanenergynh.org.

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CLEAN ENERGY NH
Your Voice in All Energy Matters

Bill to

Mari Brunner
City of Keene
3 Washington St.
Keene, NH 03431 United States

Ship to

Mari Brunner
City of Keene
3 Washington St.
Keene, NH 03431 United States

#	Date	Product or service	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1.	03/17/2026	Municipal Memberships	Municipal Membership	1	\$300.00	\$300.00

Total **\$300.00**

Ways to pay



Note to customer

Thank you for supporting Clean Energy NH!

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

ANNUAL RETREAT AGENDA

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

2. Looking Back – A Review of the ECC's History

- a. **Established Goals & Guiding Principles** (10-15 minutes)
- b. **Sustainable Energy Plan Review** (10-15 minutes)
- c. **Master Plan Overview & Flourishing Environment Pillar** (10-15 minutes)
- d. **Discussion** – Lessons Learned & Key Takeaways (30 minutes)

3. Looking Ahead – An Exploration of the Committee's Future

- a. **Focus Areas** (20-30 minutes)
- b. **Goals & Objectives** (20-30 minutes)
- c. **Work Groups** - Structure & Responsibilities (15-20 minutes)
- d. **Project Tracking & Benchmarking** – Reviewed Quarterly at Regular Meetings (10 minutes)
- e. **Collaborative Partnership Opportunities** (15-20 minutes)
- f. **Potential Presenters / Meeting Attendees** (15-20 minutes)
 - i. Chamber of Commerce
 - ii. KSC Student Sustainability Group
 - iii. Monadnock Sustainability Hub
- g. **Community Engagement & Outreach** (20-30 minutes)
 - i. Printed Outreach Materials – List of All Available Programs?
 - ii. Webpage Updates – Adding additional programs/resources?
 - iii. Newsletter

4. Upcoming Regular Meetings:

- a. April 22, 2026 at 4:30 pm
- b. May 27, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

EVENTS

2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival

April 25 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm



Join us for the 2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival to celebrate our community's commitment to preserving our planet and healthy living for all!

Festivities will be happening in and around the store, along the bike path, and Railroad Square!

[Sign up for a spot here!](#)

Farmer's market style festival with vendors and educational opportunities!